

Borough of Rocky Hill

Council Minutes

June 7, 2004

A regular meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country and a moment of silent meditation in memory of former President Ronald Reagan. It was announced that this meeting has been advertised in the Somerset Messenger Gazette issue of December 6, 2003 in accordance with “The Open Public Meetings Act”.

Roll Call:

Present

- Mr. Richard Batchelder
- Ms. Connie Hallman arrived 7:38PM
- Ms. Peggy Harris
- Mr. George Morren
- Mr. Edward Zimmerman

Absent

- Mr. Martin Engelbrecht

Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of Rocky Hill Borough Council held on May 19, 2004 were approved as presented with a motion by Ms. Harris, second by Mr. Morren. On a roll call vote Ms. Hallman, Ms. Harris, Mr. Morren, and Mr. Zimmerman voted aye. Mr. Batchelder abstained.

The minutes of the Executive Session held on May 19, 2004 were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Morren. On a roll call vote Ms. Hallman, Ms. Harris, Mr. Morren, and Mr. Zimmerman voted aye. Mr. Batchelder abstained.

Public Comment

Nothing at this time.

Engineer's Report

A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk. Ms. Hallman arrived.

Mr. Tanner explained there was some confusion in the figures for pavement stripping in the Borough. After discussion with the Contractor, Mr. Tanner gave Council a revised quote. After some discussion it was decided to complete the stripping but not complete the side stripes along Princeton Avenue beyond the Church.

The bid opening for Crescent and Park Avenues by the County is scheduled for June 8, 2004 and the work should be completed this summer. Ms Harris asked when the 3 way stop at Crescent and Bridge St. would be installed and was told by Mr. Tanner he does not know the answer. Mr. Tanner will ask the County when they will install the 3 way stop.

Mr. Tanner will notify the Contractor to complete the drainage project at the soccer field. He said there has been no notice of any DOT grants yet. Borough Council will have an Ordinance written for introduction at the next meeting to authorize the construction and funding of the Traffic Calming projects of Princeton and Montgomery Avenues. Mr. Tanner will prepare bid specs. and plan to receive bids at the July Meeting of Borough Council.

The Borough must have a Storm Water Mgt. Plan and Ordinance in place by March of 2005.

There was a conference phone call with the Federal EPA and Mayor Nolan, Mr. Engelbrecht, Mr. Tanner, and Mr. Merk concerning the Rocky Hill Super Fund Site. The meeting seemed positive and we are waiting for a reply from EPA.

Mr. Tanner will submit several grant requests to the DOT for 2005 projects.

VanCleeef Engineering will be doing some work on Somerset County Park for the Montgomery Twp. Landscape Architect. There was a question raised concerning a drainage problem on Montgomery Ave. and Mr. Tanner will check it out.

Tax Collector's and Court Administrator's Reports

The reports were received and accepted.

Bill List

Mr. Morren presented the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS THE TREASURER HAS CERTIFIED THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY SAID VOUCHERS: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING VOUCHERS BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. Second by Ms. Hallman. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix # 1 for the Bill List.

Committee reports

Administration & Records: Ms. Hallman said there is a need to have old borough records destroyed if not needed anymore.

Buildings & Grounds; Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Nursery School held a memorial tree dedication on May 8, 2004 at Borough Hall. The lease with the Nursery School needs to be completed. The estimate to complete the Court Administrator's Office is \$4095.00

Finance & Insurance: The budget report through April was received. The web site community service will be up soon. Chief Verry would like to be on our website; however Mr. Batchelder thinks it is not a good idea. Ms Harris and Mr. Morren will discuss it with Chief Verry.

Public Safety/ Emergency Services: Mr. Morren reported five parking summonses were issued during May. Judge Ross has approved the small room near the elevator as the court administrator's office. He also said the court administrator will need a violations clerk to help on court dates. The estimate to upgrade the court administrator's office is \$4095.00. Mr. Zimmerman moved, second by Ms. Hallman to approve \$4095.00 to upgrade the court administrator's office. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. The Chief of SBB Police reported that 93 summonses were issued during May and 7 people were arrested.

Streets & Roads: Ms. Harris stated the County is looking at repairs needed on Grove Street. The Cemetery Assoc. will send a letter stating trees and brush have been trimmed along Montgomery Avenue.

Water, Sewer, & Environmental Protection: Ms. Hallman reported that 2,852,000 gallons of water was pumped from well #2 during May and all tests are O.K.

Council representative to Planning Board: No Meeting on May

Zoning Official: Mr. Raffaelli reported his office is busy with zoning applications. A report is on file with the Clerk.

Rep. to the School Board: Ms Hallman reported Montgomery Twp. School Board supports Rocky Hill Bd. of Ed. Opposition to eliminating of no operating School Boards.

She said the Community Group would like to Borough Council to consider a \$200.00 donation to help fund the Community Picnic on July 3, 2004. After some discussion and an explanation of the Community Groups financial position; Mr. Zimmerman moved, second by Mr. Morren to fund \$200.00 to help with the July 4th celebration picnic. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Special Business

Mayor Nolan opened the Public Hearing on the renewal of the Liquor License of the Santa Fe Grille LLC. Mr. David Dorey said there was loud noise coming from the porch of the Santa Fe Grille on a recent Thursday night and he could not make contact with the owners of the restaurant. After some discussion it was suggested the restaurant answer their phone when called and control the noise on their porch.

Mr. Morren moved by RESOLUTION, second by Mr. Zimmerman to approve the renewal of the Liquor License of The Santa Fe Grille LLC for the period July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2005. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. Mayor Nolan opened the Public Hearing on the renewal of the Liquor License of John Ro Enterprises Inc. T/A The Station. There being no public comment Ms. Harris moved by RESOLUTION, second by Ms. Hallman to approve the renewal of the Liquor License of John Ro Enterprises Inc. for the period July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2005. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Ms. Harris moved, second by Mr. Morren introduction of ORDINANCE 04-11 AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE CL COMMUNITY LAND ZONING DISTRICT AND AMENDING THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. The Public Hearing and final adoption will be Monday June 21, 2004 at 7:30PM at Borough Hall. See appendix #2 for the Ordinance.

Mayor Nolan opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 9-04 an Ordinance establishing the penalty for violations of parking ordinances in the Borough of Rocky Hill. There being no Public Comment Mr. Morren moved, second by Ms. Hallman final adoption of Ordinance 9-04. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mayor Nolan opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 10-04 an Ordinance to amend ordinances 2-1-71, 3-90, 2-86, 2-96, and 2-82 of The Borough of Rocky Hill. There being no public comment Mr. Morren moved, second by Ms. Hallman final adoption of Ordinance 10-04. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Communications

They were discussed and ordered filed.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Zimmerman said he had received a proposal from Naomi Electric to install a light on the northeast corner of Borough Hall to light the rear of the Borough Parking Lot. The light would be 240 volt and adjustable for position. Mayor Nolan gave a brief history of lighting of the parking lot and then opened the meeting to the public for their input.

The Castaneda Family is strongly opposed to the new light and feels it will adversely impact them

Ms. Young asked how long the temporary light would remain and was told Council is not sure at this time.

Mr. Terregrossa and Ms. Lang both stated they felt the light was not needed and would cause problems.

It was discussed that possibly a new timer could be installed so the light would only be on during meetings at Borough Hall.

Mr. Batchelder said he liked the idea of a new timer.

After some more Council discussion Mr. Zimmerman moved, second by Ms. Hallman to install the new light on the northeast corner of Borough Hall at a cost not to exceed \$1500.00. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

New Business

Mr. Morren said the Rescue Squad will be coming to Borough Council with bid specs for a new ambulance. (Cost approximately \$130,000.00).

Mayor Nolan asked if there was any support among Councilmembers to have the American Flag flown on all the utility poles in town where flag holders are in place. After some discussion Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Ms. Harris to fly the Flags on all utility poles with flag holders. On a roll call vote Mr. Batchelder, Ms Harris and Mr. Zimmerman voted aye. Ms. Hallman and Mr. Morren vote nay. The motion passed.

Public Comment

Ms Lang asked if motor homes can be parked in residential zones and was told if properly registered they could.

Ms. Lang also asked about tree houses built close to property lines and was told it was a zoning issue.

Mr. Terregrossa stated the soccer goals behind Borough Hall are very dangerous. Mr. Zimmerman will check out the goals.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20PM with a motion by Mr. Batchelder, second by Mr. Morren. On a voice vote all present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.
Borough Clerk